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MORPC Unveils Evacuation Framework for Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking, Madison, Pickaway, and Union Counties on November 15, 2010

(Columbus – November 10, 2010) The evacuations of New Orleans and Houston in 2005 due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita were two of the largest evacuations in U.S. history and indicated a number of shortcomings such as the lack of planning to evacuate carless residents, particularly minority, low-income, elderly, and persons with disabilities. The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) received a grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to develop an evacuation planning framework that expressly addresses transportation needs populations in the case of a natural or manmade disaster for the seven-county central Ohio region.

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) will unveil the framework at a press event scheduled for Monday, November 15, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency, 5300 Strawberry Farms, Columbus.

The Planning Framework for the Evacuation of the Transportation Needs Populations in Central Ohio lays the groundwork for more robust strategies in the region to ensure that future evacuations will efficiently and effectively accommodate the transportation needs of vulnerable populations. As one of only two agencies in the U.S. to receive this grant, the Framework will serve as a nationwide model for regional cooperation in emergency preparedness for transportation needs populations. It will also be used as a guide by other regions throughout the United States in developing their own plans that are tailored to their regions.

“While we don’t see many hurricanes, central Ohio is susceptible to other events such as ice or wind storms and flooding where this framework will be used by emergency responders to help evacuate our neighbors with the greatest vulnerability and need,” states Daniel Haake, MORPC Senior Planner.

MORPC is a voluntary association of 47 local governments in central Ohio serving the region through planning, direct service, public policy information and innovative programming and intergovernmental coordinating services in the areas of transportation, land use, energy conservation, the environment and housing.

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